

18 July 2008



Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
C/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Ste. 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

I am pleased to nominate Charles T. Mitchell to the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Mr. Mitchell was the Scientific Collecting representative for the MLPA Los Angeles/San Diego regional working group that was formed in 2002. The required information is presented below, and additional letters of support from the State of California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Ocean Institute / O.C. Marine Protected Areas Committee, and Southern California Edison Company are attached.

Please contact me at _____ if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Shane Beck".

D. Shane Beck
President, Principal Scientist

Nomination for the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Name: **Charles T. Mitchell**
Founder and Vice President
MBC Applied Environmental Sciences

Costa Mesa, California 92626

- A short statement to confirm how the applicant meets **each** of the selection criteria listed above,

Mr. Charles T. Mitchell (Chuck) has resided in southern California his entire life, and spent most of his time examining the physical and biological properties of the ocean. In 1969, Chuck founded Marine Biological Consultants, an environmental consulting firm that initiated some of the first long-term, nearshore marine monitoring programs in southern California. The company continues today as MBC Applied Environmental Sciences, and has expanded to provide a wide range of services. MBC biologists have performed physical and biological surveys of estuarine, nearshore, and offshore habitats of southern California, and Chuck has overseen or performed almost all of these studies in the last 39 years.

Chuck brings the ability to convey and appreciate multiple viewpoints. He has facilitated numerous information transfer meetings in California and Alaska on behalf of the Minerals Management Service that have brought together fishers, scientists, resource agencies, environmental advocates, and the general public. As a result of his experience, he has developed and maintained relationships with a diverse cross-section of southern Californians to whom he can disseminate information.

Chuck understands the time commitments associated with the MLPA process, and specifically the requirements of the stakeholder group, and will make time to fulfill those commitments. Chuck is familiar with GIS systems (ArcGIS 9.3), as GIS is used at MBC for a wide variety of projects. As an example, MBC is responsible for photographing and mapping all kelp beds from Ventura to Imperial Beach; the photographs are analyzed and canopy area calculated using ArcGIS.

- A brief summary of past involvement in the MLPA or similar collaborative public processes to provide advice on natural resource policy or planning,

Mr. Mitchell was the 'Scientific Collecting' representative for the MLPA Los Angeles/San Diego regional working group that was formed in 2002. He participated in the meetings that were held as part of the MLPA initiative during that time.

The following are some other examples of Chuck's involvement of collaborative groups and processes:

- Founding Member and President (1985, 1990-2): American Academy of Underwater Sciences;
- Director (1993-5): American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, So. Calif. Chapter;
- Board of Directors (2002-5): Southern California Academy of Sciences;
- Board of Directors (1993-2000), Scientific Advisory Board (1992-3): Pro Esteros (a binational organization for the preservation of Baja California's coastal wetlands);
- Biology Advisory Council: California State University Long Beach;
- Advisory Board: Southern California Edison Redondo Marine Education Center;
- Science Advisory Committee: CDFG Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve;
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists;
- California Committee on Marine Ecological Survey Standards;
- Scientific review panel member for the Marine Ecological Reserves Research Program, University of California Sea Grant Program, 1996-7;
- Appointed member to the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Scientific Diving Standards Board, 1980.

In addition, Chuck has facilitated information transfer meetings for the U.S. Dept. of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) in California and Alaska. One of the latest meetings he participated in was a three-day workshop in Nuiqsut, Alaska in 2003 that included scientists from the U.S. and Canada, resource agencies, community elders, and residents. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss decreasing commercial catches of Arctic cisco (*Coregonus autumnalis*), and specifically to elicit not only results from ongoing scientific research, but anecdotal information from local fishers. By taking a wider view, MMS was able to formulate a study plan that would assist in determining potential causes for the declining cisco catches.

- Willingness to commit the time for full participation,

Chuck understands the time commitments associated with the MLPA process, and specifically the requirements of the stakeholder group, and will make time to fulfill those commitments.

- Descriptions of the organizations and individuals with which the nominee will communicate, and specific communication and outreach mechanisms to be utilized (give examples),

As indicated earlier, Chuck has developed and maintained long-standing relationships with people from a wide variety of agencies, academic institutions, companies, and so on. It is anticipated that information gleaned from the MLPA meetings will be summarized and disseminated in the following fashion:

A summary of each meeting, if not provided by the facilitator(s), will be drafted by Chuck. This summary can be posted at MBC's web site, and circulated via email to Chuck's lengthy contact list. This includes contacts in industry (including utilities, engineering firms, and consulting firms), agencies (such as CDFG representatives at Shellmaker Island, Upper Newport Bay, and State Parks representatives), academic scientists (such as professors within the UC system), and fishers. MBC is also occasionally contacted by the Orange County Register for relevant expertise in marine biological issues.

MBC also participates in the Orange County Marine Protected Areas Committee (OCMPAC), a collaboration of city and county officials, institutional representatives, environmental consultants, academic faculty and nonprofit organization members (<http://www.ocmarineprotection.org>). The OCMPAC's goal is to set the model for localized implementation of marine conservation efforts through regional communication and cooperation. OCMPAC accomplishments have included county wide signage, enforcement trainings, teacher workshops, research management and education programs. Chuck would enlist the assistance of the OCMPAC in disseminating information from the MPA process, including posting at their web site.

- Areas of knowledge or expertise relevant to the project.

In the last 50 years, Chuck has been involved with numerous projects and studies in California. He has been involved with the design of marine monitoring programs throughout southern California, as well as Baja California. As a scientific diver Chuck has logged thousands of dives in southern California, and has thorough understanding of California's aquatic resources, including their ecology, life history, trends in abundance, etc. MBC has conducted multiple larval fish/invertebrate studies in southern California since the 1970s, most of which were designed by Chuck, and data from these studies represent the foundation of knowledge of some of the nearshore fish species of California.

Chuck has been an avid fisher since childhood, and is aware of the patterns of catch composition, targeted fishing areas, and seasonality of recreational and commercial fisheries. In 1999, Chuck completed and submitted the "*Southern California Commercial Sportfish Catch Database*" to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The database included daily sportfish catches from 1959 through 1998 for every landing in southern California. The database is available online and maintained at the NMFS web site (<http://swfscdata.nmfs.noaa.gov/LaTimes>).

In summary, the California Resources Agency would be hard-pressed to find someone as knowledgeable in multiple subject areas as Chuck to serve on the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.